for notifying an "evolved" grade, a hybrid with a natural, area-specific Basmati as one of the patents, of Indian Basmati as "Super" in order to boost rice exports and counter Pakistan in rice exports;

(b) whether Government have examined the request and if so, with what result; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Rice exporters have requested the Government for notification of the 'Super' variety of rice as 'Basmati' rice. The request has been examined and recommended to Dapartment of Agriculture & Cooperation for necessary Notification under the Seeds Act 1966.

Free trade deal between India and European Union

313. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been raised by United Kingdom to have free trade deal between India and European Union;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of countries with whom India has signed Free Trade Agreements; and

(d) the details of countries with whom India propose to have or expected to sign Free Trade Agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No formal proposal has been received from the United Kingdom which is a Member State of the European Union.

(c) India has signed Free Trade Agreements with Sri Lanka and Bhutan. India has signed a Framework Agreement for establishing FTA with Thailand. India has signed a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with Singapore which, *inter alia,* includes FTA in the areas of trade in goods and services and investments. India is also a signatory to the South Asian Free Trade Area Agreement (SAFTA) and Framework Agreement on the

BIMSTEC FTA (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Free Trade Area) between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Framework Agreements for Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement have also been signed with ASEAN, Thailand and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

(d) Possibilities of having Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements/Free Trade Agreements are being explored with Malaysia, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Republic of Korea and Chile. India and European Union have established a High Level Trade Group to study and explore ways and means to deepen and widen their bilateral trade and investment relationship.

Incentives for industralisation

314. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given a package of economic incentives and concessions to promote industrialisation in some States;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether some of the incentives have been withdrawn by Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government had announced a New Industrial Policy for North-East (NEIP) on 24.12.1997. Thereafter, Special Packages of economic incentives and other concessions were notified for the States of Jammu & Kashmir on 14.06.2002; Sikkim on 23.12.2002; and Himachal Pradesh & Uttaranchal on 07.01.2003. Under these packages, various incentives/ concessions, for industrialization of these States, have been provided, which, *inter alia,* include excise exemption, income tax exemption and Central Capital Investment Subsidy. However, excise duty exemption in the States other than the North-Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir is available to the units set up or expanded on or before March 31,2007.